

Assemblyman
PAUL KORETZ

Forty-second Assembly District

proudly representing the communities of West Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, Century City, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood, West Los Angeles, Hollywood, Hancock Park, Universal City, Studio City, and Sherman Oaks



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Textbook Rental Passes Assembly Higher Ed Committee ***AB 2678 Clears Path for Rental Services at California Colleges & Universities***

Sacramento - AB 2678, authored by Assemblyman Paul Koretz (D-West Hollywood), has passed the California State Assembly Committee on Higher Education with bipartisan support and now moves on to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill provides a roadmap for California public colleges and universities to establish textbook rental services as a means to reduce costs for students.

“Textbook rental services could save a full time student as much as \$600 per year. With fee increases, cuts to financial aid programs, and skyrocketing textbook prices, many students are going without books or being forced out of school entirely. AB 2678 creates a starting place for California campuses and provides options for starting text rental services,” said Assemblyman Koretz.

The bill outlines a process for establishing a textbook rental service that requires sign-off from the student association, administrators, and faculty and also caps textbook rental fees at fifty percent of the cost of purchasing books. In the hearing, Koretz outlined faculty protections that ensure teachers will continue to select the books most appropriate for their courses.

“Textbook rental programs typically allow professors to select any book they wish, but ask that they do so with an eye to the future. This bill guarantees faculty they will continue to select their books and that they will have a strong voice in rental policies and procedures,” explained Koretz.

Textbook rental programs rely on faculty participation in a process whereby the same books are used for a specified period of time, such as three semesters. Books are rented to students for a fee rather than sold, then students return the book at the end of the term. The Koretz bill guarantees students the right to purchase the books they rent and many rental services offer discounts on book purchases.

The bill is sponsored by the California Public Interest Research Group (CalPIRG). In a study released in January, CalPIRG found that California college students will spend on average \$898 on textbooks in the 2003-2004 academic year. That’s up from \$642 in 1996-1997, according to the study.

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